

DFI-0777-61

1 February 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing of Chester V. Clifton, Brigadier General, U.S.A.,
Military Aide to the President

1. On 30 January 1961, the writer afforded a security briefing to General Clifton on Projects O, IDEA, COR and A. This briefing was given at the request of General Goodpaster, who was in the process of briefing General Clifton on certain areas of responsibility.

2. At the conclusion of the IDEA briefing, General Clifton inquired as to whether the President was aware of the program and I assured him that undoubtedly Mr. Bissell, in his several briefings of the President, has kept the President current on the status of these four programs.

3. Toward the conclusion of the briefing, General Goodpaster entered the office and mention was made, in line with a suggestion made by Mr. Eugene Kiefer, that with regard to the COR program the Agency has been given blanket authority for this operation without obtaining specific White House approval before each shot. General Goodpaster stated that this was, in fact, restricted by budgetary allocations. This matter lead to a discussion between General Goodpaster and General Clifton with regard to the necessity of keeping the President informed as to these shots. However, General Goodpaster pointed out that it is not necessary anymore to advise the President of each Polaris and other miscellaneous missile launchings. General Clifton inquired as to who would keep him apprized of Agency operations under these programs and General Goodpaster volunteered that Mr. Bissell is the one who will communicate with General Clifton in this regard.

4. With regard to White House approval for flights under Project IDEA, General Goodpaster mentioned the fact that Mr. McGeorge Bundy would be the officer on the White House Staff who would communicate White House concurrence in such flights. It was gathered from the discussions between General Goodpaster and General Clifton that the exact area of responsibility of General Clifton and Mr. Bundy has not been precisely defined at the moment.

No Objection by NSC to Declassification & Release, as Sanitized

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5. General Clifton's secretary, Miss Pauline Yates, who had been General Goodpaster's secretary, was briefed on the same day on the same projects as General Clifton. The briefing of General Clifton had been coordinated with [REDACTED] of Mr. Bissell's staff prior to the briefing and the briefing was coordinated with the CIA/DSO and [REDACTED] of GCI. [REDACTED] also briefed General Clifton and Miss Yates on 30 January.

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6. The above is for the record.

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Chief, Security Section
DPD-DD/P

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